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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/663,864	09/15/2000	Arnold V. Kholodenko	004117 USA/ETCH/ECT	4201
32588	7590	10/01/2003	EXAMINER	
APPLIED MATERIALS, INC. 2881 SCOTT BLVD. M/S 2061 SANTA CLARA, CA 95050			LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/663,864

Applicant(s)

KHOLODENKO ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2003 and 17 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed July 21, 2003 in which Claim 1 has been amended, has been placed of record in the file as Paper No. 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, and 6-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shamouilian et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,203). The applied reference has a common assignee and at least one common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the

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reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

With regard to Claim 1, Shamouilian et al. discloses an electrical coupler, comprising: an inner connector element (236) having opposing ends; an upper end connector (231) and a lower end connector (233); each end connector (231, 233) respectively coupled to one of the opposing ends of the inner connector element (236); a thermally conductive flange (202) coupled to and circumscribing the inner connector (236); and an outer connector element (238) disposed over the inner connector (236) and the thermally conductive flange (202). See Figs. 5-10.

With regard to Claim 2, Shamouilian et al. discloses the opposing ends of the inner connector element (236) each comprising a bore, in which the upper and lower end connectors (231, 233) are disposed. See Figs. 5-10.

With regard to Claim 3, Shamouilian et al. discloses the thermally conductive flange (202) being brazed to the inner connector (236). See Figs. 5-10.

With regard to Claim 6, Shamouilian et al. discloses the inner connector (236) element is fabricated from beryllium copper. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 7, Shamouilian et al. discloses the upper and lower end connectors (231, 233) being fabricated from beryllium copper. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

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With regard to Claim 8, Shamouilian et al. discloses the upper and lower end connectors (231, 233) being plated with at least one electrical conductor. See Figs. 5-10.

With regard to Claim 9, Shamouilian et al. discloses the upper and lower end connectors (231, 233) being plated with successive layers of nickel and gold. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 10, Shamouilian et al. discloses the upper and lower end connectors (231, 233) each comprising a female banana connector (199b) disposed therein the bore. See Figs. 5-10.

With regard to Claim 11, Shamouilian et al. discloses an upper male connector (220) removably inserted into the upper end connector (231). See Figs. 5-10.

With regard to Claim 12, Shamouilian et al. discloses the upper male connector (220) being fabricated from a thermally non-conductive material. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 13, Shamouilian et al. discloses the upper male end connector (220) being fabricated from stainless steel. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 14, Shamouilian et al. discloses the upper male end connector (220) being plated with at least one electrical conductor. See Figs. 5-10,

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Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 15, Shamouilian et al. discloses the upper male end connector (220) being plated with successive layers of nickel, copper, nickel, gold. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 16, Shamouilian et al. discloses a lower male connector (123) removably inserted into the lower end connector (233). See Figs. 5-10.

With regard to Claim 17, Shamouilian et al. discloses the lower male connector (123) being fabricated from beryllium copper. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 18, Shamouilian et al. discloses the lower male connector (123) being plated with at least one electrical conductor. See Figs. 5-10.

With regard to Claim 19, Shamouilian et al. discloses the lower male connector (123) being plated with successive layers of nickel and gold. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 20, Shamouilian et al. discloses the outer connector element (238) being fabricated from silicone. See Figs. 5-10, Column 11, Lines 25-36, Column 12, Lines 25-67, Column 13, Lines 1-5, and Column 14, Lines 26-61.

With regard to Claim 21, Shamouilian et al. discloses a portion of the thermally conductive flange (202) circumscribing the inner connector (236) is exposed from the

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outer connector element (238) to transfer heat to a surrounding environment. See Figs. 5-10.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the thermally conductive flange being fabricated from a ceramic material or from the group comprising aluminum nitride and beryllium oxide and in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base and intermediate claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 in the response filed on May 19, 2003 have been considered but are moot in view of new grounds of rejection and the new arguments presented on the amendment filed on July 21, 2003.

6. Applicant's arguments filed July 21, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's arguments regarding Claim 1 that the Shamoullian et al. reference doesn't show thermally conductive flange coupled to and circumscribing the inner connector, Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 10 in which

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the Shamoullian et al. reference clearly discloses the thermally conductive flange (202) being coupled to and circumscribing the inner connector (236). Applicant is reminded that the term coupled means "joined, attached, united, or tied". Therefore, the Examiner believes that Applicant's claims are broad enough to read on the Shamoullian et al. reference.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

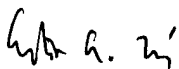
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Edwin A. Leon
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EAL
September 29, 2003


P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
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